

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS OF IMPORTANCE TO ALL EXPERIMENTERS.**

During the past two years Joseph F. Rock has been traveling in Yunnan, China, where he has collected many rare and beautiful species of Rhododendron. Seeds of these have just been received at Washington, and are ready for distribution to experimenters who desire to test them.

The collection contains many distinct species and varieties: It is, without doubt, the most extensive which has ever been secured from that part of the world. In forwarding it, Mr. Rock wrote, "I made a special effort to get as many as possible. They are really wonderful. You have no conception of the variety; some form dense mats over acres of ground, the whole one mass of rich crimson. Do not think of them as shrubs with flowers of various shades of pink; each one has an individuality of its own, and they should prove an endless stock for the breeder."

Some of these plants come from elevations of five or six thousand feet; some from much higher regions. Those which Mr. Rock secured on mountain passes at elevations of twelve thousand feet, where snow covers the ground for considerable periods annually, are likely to prove fairly hardy. Others will probably not succeed where winter temperatures lower than twenty above zero are experienced. There are regions on the Pacific slope, as for example the cool, moist coast of southern Oregon and northern California, where many of these rhododendrons ought to luxuriate. It is doubtful if any of them are sufficiently hardy for New England. The mountainous regions of the Carolinas and other southern states may provide satisfactory conditions.

If you have soil which has proved suitable for rhododendrons in general, and are equipped to handle the propagation of such plants, we will be glad to forward seeds of Mr. Rock's varieties for you to try. Since they will not be included in the general distribution next winter, these seeds can be sent only to those who apply for them immediately.

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